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The President's Daily Brief

December 16, 1976

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JAMAICA: *Prime Minister Manley's landslide victory in the general election yesterday may encourage him to accelerate efforts to create a one-party state.*

He first will have to neutralize the media and increase his control of the security forces. During the campaign, Manley appointed a sympathizer to head the special election police force in key districts, and he attempted to force the press to submit to some censorship.

We expect Manley will continue to pursue close ties with Cuba. Relations between the two countries could be further strengthened by reinstatement of the visit Fidel Castro had been scheduled to make last May.

Manley has indicated a willingness to take a fresh look at relations with the US.

Any sustained improvement in relations, however, is likely to depend on a commitment from the US to provide substantial assistance in budget and balance-of-payments support. We see little likelihood that Manley will alter his relatively prudent attitude toward the major US aluminum companies.

* * *

CUBA-USSR: *Cuba's second-ranking official, Raul Castro, is on his third visit of the year to the USSR.*

Discussions presumably will touch on future policy in southern Africa, with Castro reassuring the Soviets that Cuban moves will not prove embarrassing to the USSR.

The presence of Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Cuba's principal negotiator with the Soviets and the number-three man in the Cuban hierarchy, suggests that a request for additional Soviet economic assistance is high on Castro's agenda.

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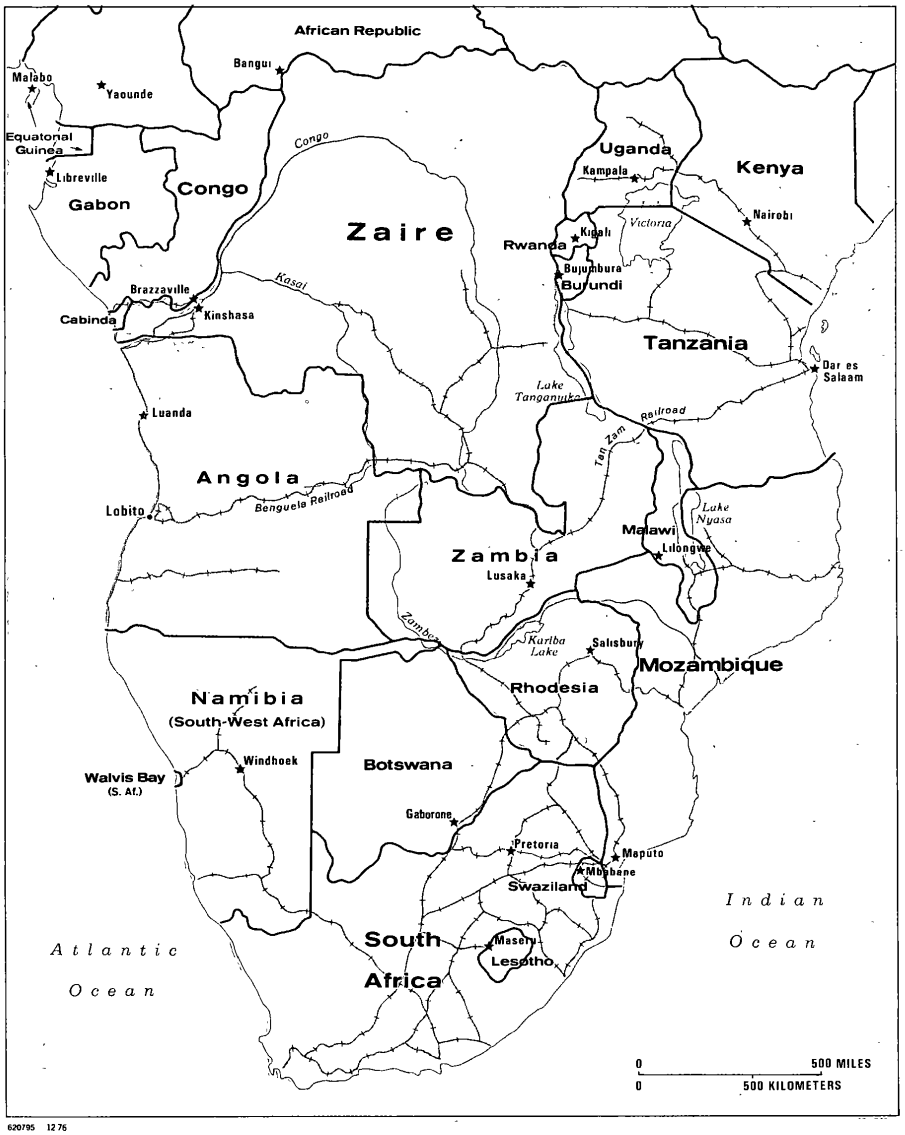

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Soviet arms deliveries to Cuba have increased by about one third over the past year.

The increase can be largely attributed to the Soviet program to replace equipment that Cuba sent to Angola.

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We believe Soviet arms deliveries to Cuba in 1977 will roughly equal the 1976 level. This would allow Cuba to replenish equipment already sent to Angola and to bring inventories to the levels that have generally prevailed since 1968.

* * *

ZAIRE: *President Mobutu is watching Rhodesian developments with increasing concern.*

Mobutu's open opposition to the Popular Movement during the Angolan civil war has left him with little political influence among other South African leaders as to the course of events in Rhodesia. He is aware that a Rhodesian civil war or the assumption of power there by a radical regime would have serious consequences for Zaire.

Mobutu's major concern is for safe and economic transportation routes. Zaire has always had to rely on external transportation routes to carry a large share of its imports and exports. The disruption of Angolan facilities--the Benguela

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railroad and the port of Lobito--has forced the Zairian government to divert a large share of its traffic to South African ports via Zambian and Rhodesian rail lines. In addition, the Zairian copper belt purchases coke, coal, and corn worth $37 million from Rhodesia annually.

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Lacking membership in the club of front-line presidents that has played such a prominent role in seeking a solution to the Rhodesian problem, Mobutu is concentrating on improving his position with some of his neighbors and with the USSR.

Nigerian Foreign Minister Garba is tentatively scheduled to visit Kinshasa this month, and the Zairian commerce minister is in Moscow to initial several commercial and cultural accords.

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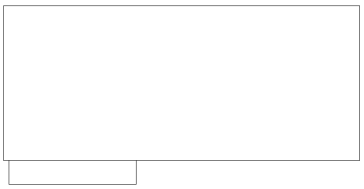

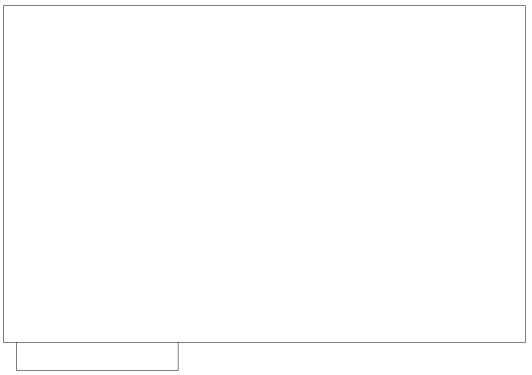

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NOTES

The first day of the conference of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries *concluded with no apparent substantive progress on the highly contentious oil price issue.*

Iraqi Oil Minister Karim said after the meeting that the price issue is not likely to be resolved until Friday at the earliest. Saudi Oil Minister Yamani's pre-conference statement, calling for a further six-month price freeze, evoked a negative response among many OPEC representatives. The outcome of the price debates remains uncertain.

* * *

Egypt's [redacted]

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Fahmi announced yesterday that he had invited Waldheim to visit the Middle East in January. The Egyptians want the onus for any delay in the conference to be on Israel should Waldheim's efforts fail.

Egypt sponsored a UN General Assembly resolution last weekend calling for the convocation of the conference no later than the end of March.

* * *

Israel *recently took delivery of the first of three 500-ton small attack submarines from the* UK.

The other two submarines apparently are scheduled for delivery in mid-1977. Israel is considering buying additional submarines after evaluating the performance of the first three.

The new submarines probably will be used in the Mediterranean for coastal defense [redacted]

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EC foreign ministers meeting this week in Brussels approved tough measures sharply reducing the catch third-country fishermen will be allowed to take in EC waters next year.

The Community will establish a 200-nautical mile fishing zone in the North Atlantic and North Sea on January 1. Those states that have not negotiated a reciprocal fishing agreement with the Community--the USSR, Poland, East Germany, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, and Finland--will be allowed to continue fishing EC waters for three months, but at substantially reduced levels. Bulgaria and Romania, which only recently began to fish in EC waters, will be excluded totally on January 1.

States that desire to continue fishing within the EC's 200-nautical mile zone after April 1 must negotiate new agreements with the EC Commission.

The Soviets and the East Europeans will be most seriously affected by the EC measures; the Soviet catch would be reduced by almost 60 percent under the new regulations. The EC is prepared to negotiate an agreement that would allow the Soviets an annual catch of about 60,000 tons--the amount EC trawlers now take in the Barents Sea. The Soviets and the East Europeans, however, refuse to recognize the EC's authority to negotiate for the Nine.

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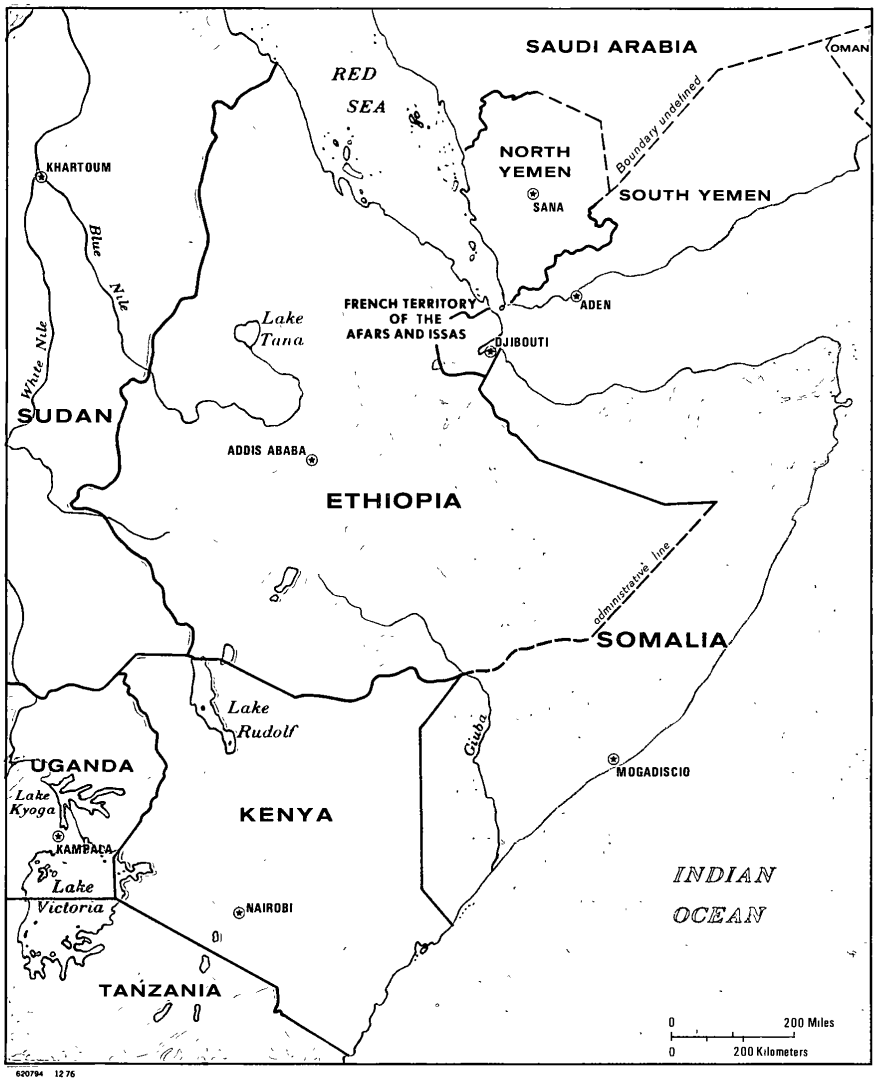
The Horn of Africa



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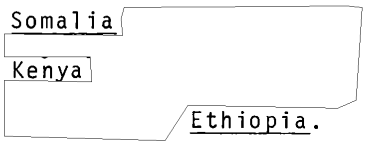

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